

## Awareness: CO<sub>2</sub> flooding system activation points

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A member has highlighted a potential gap in safety awareness which may be of interest to members.

One of their vessels has a CO<sub>2</sub> flooding system activation point within the main CO<sub>2</sub> bottle room – however, there are no warnings or procedural guidance on the use of Breathing Apparatus (BA) within the main CO<sub>2</sub> bottle room when operating the system.



### Our member drew the following lessons:

- When activating flooding systems there is a chance that CO<sub>2</sub> may leak into the space itself, either directly from the cylinders and/or associated piping. As such, the space may quickly fill with CO<sub>2</sub> presenting a hazardous atmosphere to persons inside.
- Therefore, after seeking guidance from the maritime fire-fighting school, our member recommended the use of BA whenever.
  - entering the CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder space after activating the system from a remote point.
  - when activation of the CO<sub>2</sub> system is required from within the CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder space itself, or
  - whenever undertaking drills within the CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder space.
- Steps were taken to review relevant vessel specific procedures and,

where required, update them to include guidance on the use of BA equipment in CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder rooms/spaces.

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